

Message Text

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S E C R E T USNATO 5407

E.O. 11652: GDS 12-31-81

TAGS: MCAP, NATO, DA

SUBJECT: DRC MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION - DENMARK

REF: A. COPENHAGEN 2540

B. USNATO 5279

SUMMARY. DURING NOVEMBER 8 DRC MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION OF DANISH FORCE PLANS FOR 1974-78, CHAIRMAN AND MOST DRC REPS EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE EFFECT OF 1973 DANISH DEFENSE ACT ON FUTURE CAPABILITIES OF DANISH ARMED FORCES. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING NOVEMBER 8 DRC MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION OF DANISH FORCE PLANS, CHAIRMAN REVIEWED INITIAL IMPACT OF 1973 DANISH DEFENSE ACT IMPLEMENTATION: ON THE PLUS SIDE, DANES WERE DEVOTING A GREATER PERCENTAGE OF THEIR DEFENSE BUDGET TO MAJOR EQUIPMENT AND WERE INCREASING THE PERCENT OF REGULARS IN THEIR ARMED FORCES. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE, THE NAVY REPORTS ONLY TWO COMBAT READY SHIPS; THE AIR FORCE REPORTS THAT 54 ATTACK AND RECCE AIRCRAFT WILL NOT BE REPLACED DURING THE PERIOD; AND, DANES REPORT DECREASES IN MANNING LEVELS FOR ALL FORCES AND
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HEAVY RELIANCE UPON VOLUNTEERS.

2. FORCES. CHAIRMAN POINTED OUT THAT BOTH ARMY AND AIR FORCE FALL SHORT OF THEIR 1973 COMMITMENTS AND THAT NONE OF THE

SERVICES PLAN TO MEET THEIR FORCE GOALS. US REP, RECALLING SPRING 1973 NATO CONSULTATIONS ON DANISH DEFENSE ACT, URGED DANES TO IMPLEMENT THE COMPENSATORY MEASURES IDENTIFIED BY NATO'S MILITARY AUTHORITIES. HE FURTHER RUGED TO ACCELERATE IMPLEMENTATION OF AIRCRAFT SHELTER AND ANTI-TANK PROGRAMS. NORWEGIAN REP DREW ATTENTION TO DENMARK'S STRATEGIC LOCATION AND ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONTROLLING THE BALTIC SEA EXITS. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT DENMARK REPORTED NO COMBAT READY MINELAYERS.

3. WAR RESERVE STOCKS. CHAIRMAN AND US REP URGED DENMARK TO IMPROVE WAR RESERVE STOCKS. UK REP REFERRED TO DANISH REPORT OF A PLAN TO IMPROVE STOCK SITUATION AND ASKED WHETHER DENMARK COULD INFORM DRC OF A TARGET DATE FOR REACHING 30-DAY LEVEL. DANISH REP REPLIED THAT HE WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO GIVE ANY DATE.

4. DEFENSE SPENDING. CHAIRMAN SAID THAT ALTHOUGH DENMARK'S PER CAPITA GNP WAS THE SECOND HIGHEST AMONG EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF NATO, ITS PERCENTAGE OF GNP DEVOTED TO DEFENSE WAS THE THIRD LOWEST IN THE ENTIRE ALLIANCE.

5. MANNING LEVELS. DISCUSSION OF DECREASED MANNING LEVELS WAS MAIN THEME OF EXAMINATION. CHAIRMAN REPORTED THAT 1973 ARMY MANNING ELEVEL OF BRIGADES IN ZEELAND WAS REDUCED TO 36 PERCENT, IN JUTLAND TO 30 PERCENT, IN BORNHOLM TO 22 PERCENT. DANISH REP ANNOUNCED THAT IN NEAR FUTURE DENMARK WOULD LAUNCH A MAJOR RECRUITING CAMPAIGN. CHAIRMAN ASKED IF BRIGADE MANNING LEVELS WOULD BE INCREASED IF CAMPAIGN WAS SUCCESSFUL. DANISH REP SAID HE COULD NOT GIVE SUCH AN ASSURANCE. NUMEROUS REPS POSED QUESTIONS ON DANISH RESERVE TRAINING AND MOBILIZATION SYSTEM. SINCE DANISH REP WAS UNABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ADEQUATELY, CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED AND DANISH REP AGREED TO CIRCLATE EXPLANATION.

6. CHAIRMAN CONCLUDED EXAMINATION BY INFORMING DANISH REP THAT HE HAD NOT DISPELLED DOUBLTS IN NATO ABOUT EFFECT OF 1973 DEFENSE ACT ON FUTURE CAPABILITIES OF DANISH FORCES. CHAIRMAN VIEWED MANNING LEVELS FOR DANSIH FORCES AS DEPRESSING, THE MORESO
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BECUASE DANISH REP WAS UNABLE TO ASSURE DRC THAT NEWLY REDUCED LEVELS WOULD NOT BE FURTHER REDUCED.
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